

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 NEA-10 IO-13 /077 W
-----042054Z 027756 /67

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4810

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3000

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, CSCE, PFOR, UR, US
SUBJECT: CONSOFFS MEET WITH BENJAMIN FAYN AND COMPANION

REFS: MOSCOW 2943 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY. CONSOFFS MET WITH BENJAMIN FAYN AND COM-
PANION YULIY KOSCHAROVSKIY, EVENING MARCH 4 AT CONSOFF'S
APARTMENT. MEETING TOOK PLACE WITHOUT INCIDENT. FAYN
STATED THAT HE STILL INTENDS TO DELIVER CSCE MATERIAL
THROUGH UNNAMED FRIENDS, ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT PLAN TO
RENEW HIS OWN ATTEMPTS TO VISIT EMBASSY AT THIS TIME.
FAYN'S COMPANION DURING FEB 28 AND MARCH 2 ATTEMPTS TO
ENTER EMBASSY, IOSIF BEGUN, HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN ARRESTED
AND CHARGED UNDER ANTI-PARASITISM LAWS. FAYN AND
KOSCHAROVSKIY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ADMINISTRATION'S
RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENTS, ALTHOUGH THEY ACKNOWLEDGED
THAT INITIAL SOVIET REACTION MIGHT BE TO INCREASE PRESSURE
AGAINST DISSIDENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. BENJAMIN FAYN AND HIS COMPANION, YULIY KOSCHAROVSKIY,
MET WITH CONSOFFS AT CONSOFF'S APARTMENT EVENING OF
MARCH 4. THEY WERE UNDER SURVEILLANCE WHEN MET BY
CONSOFFS OUTSIDE OF BUILDING, BUT NO ATTEMPT WAS
MADE TO PREVENT MEETING, OR TO PICK THEM UP WHEN CONSOFFS
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ESCORTED THEM OUT AFTER MEETING.

3. IN INITIAL PART OF CONVERSATION, FAYN STATED THAT HE
WOULD ARRANGE TO HAVE WHITE PAPER ON SYMPOSIUM DELIVERED
TO EMBASSY THROUGH QUOTE FRIENDS UNQUOTE AT EMBASSY. HE
WAS SOMEWHAT RELUCTANT TO NAME FRIENDS AND CONSOFFS DECIDED
NOT TO PRESS HIM ON THIS POINT. FAYN INDICATED THAT AFTER

PAPER WAS DELIVERED, HE WOULD MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT TO THAT EFFECT. CONSOFF CAUTIONED HIM THAT, AS HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY INDICATED, NO COMMITMENT COULD BE MADE REGARDING DISPOSITION OF PAPER. CONSOFF STATED FURTHER THAT, ALTHOUGH FAYN WAS FREE TO MAKE WHATEVER STATEMENT HE WISHED, CONSOFF COULD NOT RPT NOT GIVE ASSURANCES THAT EMBASSY WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF PAPER. FAYN STATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED THESE CONDITIONS.

4. KOSHAROVSKIY AND FAYN THEN INFORMED CONSOFFS THAT FAYN'S COMPANION DURING HIS INITIAL ATTEMPT TO ENTER EMBASSY, IOSIF BEGUN, HAS BEEN ARRESTED. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT FAYN AND BEGUN WERE DETAINED MORNING MARCH 2 AFTER CALLING EMBASSY TO SET UP APPOINTMENT WITH CONSOFF. POLICE RELEASED BOTH FAYN AND BEGUN AFTER THREE-HOUR DETENTION, BUT BEGUN WAS TOLD TO APPEAR AT MILITIA STATION AT 6:00 P.M. THAT DAY. BEGUN WENT TO MILITIA STATION AS ORDERED, WAS QUESTIONED FOR SEVERAL MINUTES, AND WAS ALLOWED TO RETURN TO HIS APARTMENT. ACCORDING TO KOSHAROVSKIY, MILITIA AGAIN APPEARED AT BEGUN'S APARTMENT DURING THE EVENING OF MARCH 2 TO ARREST HIM AND HE REMAINS UNDER DETENTION.

5. KOSHAROVSKIY TOLD CONSOFFS THAT BEGUN HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 209, RSFSR CRIMINAL CODE, FOR PARASITISM. THIS CHARGE WAS FILED DESPITE BEGUN'S ACADEMIC TITLE OF DOCTOR OF SCIENCE, WHICH KOSHAROVSKIY STATED NORMALLY PROVIDES EXEMPTION FROM CHARGES OF PARASITISM. KOSHAROVSKIY SPECULATED THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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AUTHORITIES CHOSE TO ARREST AND CHARGE BEGUN FOR SEVERAL REASONS, INCLUDING HIS RECENT ATTEMPTS TO ENTER EMBASSY AND TO FILE SLANDER SUIT AGAINST SOVIET TV IN CONNECTION WITH RECENT TELEVISION PROGRAM "SOUL BUYERS", WHICH ALLEGED THAT BOTH BEGUN AND KOSHAROVSKIY WERE AGENTS OF FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES. KOSHAROVSKIY AND FAYN ALSO SPECULATED THAT ARREST OF BEGUN MAY HAVE BEEN PETTY SOVIET ATTEMPT TO STRIKE BACK FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECEPTION OF BUKOVSKIY. THEY EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN FOR BEGUN'S FUTURE AND STATED THEIR INTENTION TO USE ALL MEANS AT THEIR DISPOSAL TO ASSIST HIM. THEY REQUESTED CONSOFFS TO PASS ON THEIR APPEAL FOR OFFICIAL U.S. INTERVENTION ON BEGUN'S BEHALF.

6. KOSHAROVSKIY AND FAYN BOTH EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS WOULD IN LONG-TERM HAVE BENEFICIAL EFFECT BOTH ON SITUATION OF SOVIET JEWS AND ON EVOLUTION OF SOVIET SOCIETY. THEY BELIEVE THAT IN SHORT-RUN SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

ACTIVISTS MAY WORSEN BECAUSE INITIAL SOVIET REACTION
WILL BE "WAR OF NERVES" IN WHICH LEADERSHIP ADOPTS HARD-
LINE POLICY. IN THEIR VIEW, SOVIET LEADERSHIP NEEDS
WESTERN TECHNOLOGY AND WILL NOT ALLOW DISPLEASURE OVER
U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS STAND TO INTERFERE WITH POSITIVE
BENEFITS IT GAINS FROM DETENTE. THEY BELIEVE THAT IF
PUSHED BEYOND CERTAIN LIMITS SOVIETS WILL BE PREPARED
TO SACRIFICE DETENTE BENEFITS, BUT THINK THAT
CURRENT U.S. POSITION IS FAR FROM THESE LIMITS.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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